

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the examination of the application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the remarks that follow, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

Claims 1 – 8, 10 – 15, and 17 – 19 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 6,130,757, hereinafter *Yoshida*, in combination with USP 6,741,367, hereinafter *Watanabe*. Claims 9 and 16 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Yoshida*, in combination with *Watanabe*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,934,046, hereinafter *Nishiwaki*.

The Examiner relies upon *Yoshida* for an alleged teaching of a data processing apparatus comprising one or more compression/decompression units that compress the data for the input job and decompress the compressed data. Applicants reserve the right to challenge this conclusion at a later time, if necessary and appropriate.

The Examiner acknowledges that *Yoshida* does not expressly disclose a controller that, when a processing request is issued for processing of the data for a next job by said compression/decompression unit(s) during processing of the data for a current job by said compression/decompression unit(s), obtains the processing wait period between pages of said current job, determines whether or not the data for said next job will undergo compression or decompression based on a comparison between the minimum processing time for said next-job data and said processing wait period, and controls the execution of processing of said next job by said compression/decompression unit(s) between pages of said current job in accordance

with this determination. To overcome this deficiency, the Examiner relies on *Watanabe*.

In particular, the Examiner alleges that *Watanabe* discloses a controller that, when a processing request is issued for processing of the data for a next job by said compression/decompression unit(s) during processing of the data for a current job by said compression/decompression unit(s), obtains the processing wait period between pages of said current job, determines whether or not the data for said next job will undergo compression or decompression based on a comparison between the minimum processing time for said next-job data and said processing wait period, and controls the execution of processing of said next job by said compression/decompression unit(s) between pages of said current job in accordance with this determination. To support this conclusion, the Examiner relies upon column 1, lines 23 - 26 and line 56 through column 2, line 19; column 12, line 32 through column 13, line 8 and Figure 11 of *Watanabe*.

In order to expedite prosecution of the application, claims 1, 4, and 11 have been amended to recite that ***the processing of said next job is executed on a page unit basis, a band unit basis, or a block unit basis, depending on the minimum processing time for said next job.***

Support for the amendments can be found at least in paragraph [0027] of the published application US 2005/0044549. By using different bases for processing of the next job, next job processing can be conducted during the between page processing wait periods - even if the processing time for a page unit basis is too long.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that the applied references do not teach or even suggest the combination of claims 1, 4, and 11. However, Applicants also reserve the right to challenge the Examiner's analysis of *Watanabe* and the Examiner's alleged motivation for combining *Watanabe* with *Yoshida*.

Claims 2 – 3, 5 - 10, and 12 - 19 depend from claims 1, 4, and 11 and are thus also patentable over the applied art at least for the reasons set forth above.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections.

In the event that there are any questions concerning this Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned attorney so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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